

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method of managing an automated license installation on a user/client server, the method comprising the steps of:

providing at least one license installation option to the user/client server;

retrieving license information of the user/client server from a license database;

querying the user/client server on a configuration of the retrieved license information;

confirming the retrieved license information with the user/client server; and

installing a license file relating to the confirmed license information.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

requiring an entry of a valid PIN number.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

requiring an affirmative permission of the user/client server before retrieval of license information from the license database.

4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

determining whether a flexible license management utility software is installed on the user/client server.

5. The method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of:

if the flexible license management utility software is determined as not being installed on the user/client server,
installing the flexible license management utility software on the user/client server.

6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

updating the license database.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one license installation option includes at least one of:

a full license installation;
a program group installation; and
a floating license installation.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one license installation option includes at least one of:

an automatic installation;
an e-mail installation; and
a manual installation.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

determining an operating system of the user/client server.

10. The method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of:

configuring the operating system of the user/client server for the automated license installation.

11. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether the installed license file is valid; and

performing one of an updating operation and a replacement operation with respect to the license file.

12. The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of:

querying the user/client server on whether one of the updating operation and the replacement operation is to be

performed with respect to the license file.

13. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

determining if an outside connection exists to the user/client server.

14. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

running a license management diagnostic program on the user/client server.

15. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

generating an error message.

16. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

exiting the automated license installation.

17. A system for managing an automated license installation on a user/client server:

a Setup program which resides on the user/client server;

an automated license Daemon program with which the Set-up program communicates; and

a license database on which is stored license information and from which at least one license can be retrieved and then installed on the user/client server.

18. The system according to claim 17, wherein retrieval of the at least one license is by the automated license Daemon program.

19. The system according to claim 17, wherein the automated license Daemon program resides on a program/ application download server.

20. The system according to claim 17, wherein the Setup program sends user/client server information to the automated license Daemon program.

21. The system according to claim 17, wherein the Setup program receives at least one of license files and error messages from the automated license Daemon program.

22. The system according to claim 17, wherein an installation of the at least one license on the user/client server is performed by the Setup program.

23. The system according to claim 17, wherein the Setup program communicates to the automated license Daemon program via an HTTP tunneling operation which establishes a bi-directional socket connection.

24. The system according to claim 17, further comprising:
a database on which resides a master copy of customer licenses from which an extract is made and becomes the source for the license database.

25. The system according to claim 24, wherein the information on the database and the license database are updated independently and then synchronized.

26. A method of automatically installing a license, the method comprising the steps of:

communicating user/client information to a program/application download server;

confirming license information obtained from the program/application download server regarding the user/client;

receiving the license from the program/application download server; and

installing the license received from the program/application download server.

27. The method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of:

obtaining license information regarding a client/user.

28. The method according to claim 27, wherein the step of obtaining the license information includes the step of obtaining the license information through a bi-directional socket connection established by an HTTP tunneling operation.

29. The method according to claim 27, wherein the license information is obtained from a license database.

30. The method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of:

updating the license information.

31. The method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of:

providing at least one license installation option to the user/client.

32. The method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of:

sending a PIN number to the program/application download server for validation.

33. A system for automatically installing a license, the apparatus comprising:

a user/client server at which the license is to be installed;

a program/application download server with which the user/client server communicates; and

a license database at which the license is stored, wherein based upon a user/client server communication with the program/application download server, the program/application download server retrieves the license from the

license database and sends the license to the user/client server for installation.

34. The system according to claim 33, further comprising:
a Setup program which resides on the user/client server and which manages installation of the license on the user/client server.

35. The system according to claim 33, further comprising:
a Setup program which resides on the user/client server and which sends user/client server information to the program/application download server.

36. The system according to claim 33, further comprising:
a corporate database containing information which is a master copy of customer licenses from which an extract is made and becomes the source for the license database.

37. The system according to claim 36, wherein the license database and the corporate database are synchronized.

38. A medium for storing information to cause a processing device to perform the steps of:

obtaining at least one license installation option;
retrieving license information from a license database;

obtaining information relating to a configuration of the retrieved license information;

confirming the retrieved license information; and
installing a license file relating to the confirmed license information.